

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims is a complete listing of the pending claims, and supersedes all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
~~requesting receiving~~, from a customer premises terminal via a local link to a line unit and telephone network switch in a switched telephone network, a request for a communication path to a destination;
controlling a scanning device to selectively connect a signal detector to the local link;
using the signal detector to monitor a signal that includes said request;
determining based on said signal detecting, via a monitor, that the requesting step that said request does not seek conversion in said line unit; and
connecting said terminal through a portion of said line unit around a converter in said line unit to a wide band data switch connected to a data network.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said portion of said line unit comprises a concentrator network of said line unit.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein said converter comprises a CODEC.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein said concentrator network includes a switching system.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said switching system provides hard wired switching.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the switching in said switching system provides hard wired switching between said terminal and said wide band data switch.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said switching system is connected to a digital signal processor (DSP).

8. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said switching system comprises gated-diode cross point (ODX) switching.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said switching system comprises cross point switching.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein said digital signal processor is indirectly associated with said line unit.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein said digital signal processor is directly associated with said wide band data switch.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said digital signal processor (DSP) is integrated with said line unit.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said requesting step is made by emitting from said terminal a signal of a predetermined characteristic and wherein said detecting is accomplished by a detecting device associated with said line unit.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further including the steps of: signaling a central processing unit (CPU) controlling said telephone network switch to effect an

entry in a journal of said telephone network switch, and using said entry for billing for the communications path set up in response to said requesting step.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said connecting step through a portion of said line unit around a converter therein to a wide band switch is a virtual hard wired connection.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein said connection to said wide band network is through an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) edge device.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said line unit comprises a line card.

18. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
~~requesting~~receiving, from a customer premises terminal via a local link to a line unit and telephone network switch in a switched telephone network, a request for a communication path to a destination;
controlling a scanning device to selectively connect a signal detector to the local link;
using the signal detector to monitor a signal that includes said request;
detecting based on said signal ~~detecting, via a monitor, that the said request seeks bandwidth~~
in excess of that available through said line unit; and
connecting said terminal through a portion of said line unit around a converter in said line unit to a wide band data switch connected to a data network.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein said portion of said line unit comprises a concentrator network of said line unit.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein said request is made by emitting from said terminal a signal of a predetermined characteristic and wherein said detecting is accomplished by a detecting device associated with said line unit.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein said portion of said line unit comprises a concentrator network of said line unit including a switching system.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein said switching system provides hard wired switching.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the switching in said switching system provides hard wired switching between said terminal and said wide band data switch.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 23, wherein said switching system is connected to a digital signal processor (DSP).

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein said digital signal processor is indirectly associated with said line unit.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein said digital signal processor is directly associated with said wide band data switch.

27. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a signal via a local link from customer premises in a telecommunications network connected by said local link to a program controlled switch in said telecommunications network;
wherein the program controlled switch is configured to scan each of a set of local links;
scanning said local link to provide monitoring of said signal;

making a determination, via a monitor, regarding a pre-established characteristic of said signal;

responsive to said determination, solid state switching said signal to a digital signal processing processor and a wide band network edge device.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 27, wherein said solid state switching comprises cross-point switching.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28, wherein said cross point switching is performed in a line unit in said telecommunications network.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein said cross-point switching directs said signal away from a two-way digital/analog converter in said line unit having predetermined narrowband digital bit-rate capabilities.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein said wide band network edge device is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) edge device.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein said digital signal processing occurs in said edge device.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 27, wherein said digital signal processing is performed in a processor separate from said wide band edge device.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 33, wherein the processor performing said digital signal processing is associated with a line unit through a portion of which said signal is conducted.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein said processor performing said digital signal processing comprises a part of said line unit.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein said digital signal processing is performed in an adaptive digital signal processor with a programmed controller providing coding and decoding functions adapted to a particular communication service requested by said signal and the physical level of signal protocol used over said local link from said customer premises.

37-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) A communications network according to claim 39, wherein the signals switched through said cross-point switches to said ports to said wide band data switch are hard-wired connected to said wide band data switch.

41. (Previously presented) A line unit for a switched telecommunications network comprising trunked together program controlled switches connected to subscriber premises by local links connected to the line unit, said line unit comprising;

a line concentrator network for connection to a plurality of local links, said concentrator network including switches, and a high bandwidth port;

customer interface hardware;

a converter for converting signals on the plurality of local links to digital signals at a predetermined narrowband bit-rate; and

a monitor, for detecting a pre-designated signal on one of the plurality of local links and providing an output signal to said concentrator network to cause said concentrator network to provide a connection to said port for signals on the one link.

42. (Original) A line unit according to claim 41, wherein said concentrator network comprise solid state switches.

43. (Previously presented) A line unit according to claim 42, wherein the concentrator switches create a hard wired connection to said port for the one link.

44. (Original) A line unit according to claim 43, wherein said line unit delivers said signals on the one link to said port in unconverted format.

45. (Previously presented) A line unit according to claim 41, including a digital signal processor with a programmed controller providing coding and decoding functions adapted to a service requested by the detected signal and the physical level protocol used over the one local link.

46. (Currently amended) A line unit for selective connection of a local link to a digital switch of a telephone network and a broadband data network, the line unit comprising:

a switch for connection to the local link, the switch comprising a first port for a narrowband communication and a second port for connection to the broadband data network; ~~and~~
the switch further configured for scanning each of a set of local links;
the switch further comprising a controller for controlling the scanning; and
a monitor means for detecting a request for a broadband service, the monitor being in selective communication with the controller to monitor at least one of the set of local links and in response controlling the switch to connect the local link to the second port.

47. (Previously presented) A line unit as in claim 46, further comprising a channel circuit, coupled to the first port, for channeling signals for communication via the local link and a predetermined digital rate channel corresponding to the narrowband communication.

48. (Currently amended) A line unit ~~for selective connection of a local link to a digital switch of a telephone network and a broadband data network, the line unit comprising:~~

a switch for connection to ~~the~~ a first local link, the switch comprising a first port for a narrowband communication and a second port for connection to the broadband data network;

a channel circuit, coupled to the first port, for channeling signals for communication via the first local link and a predetermined digital rate channel corresponding to the narrowband communication; and

a monitor including a scan point switch matrix with controller configured to selectively monitor the first local link in a set of local links;

~~a wherein the monitor for coupling to the local link to detect~~ detects a broadband service request on the first local link, and in response, controls the switch to connect the first local link to the second port.

49. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the monitor includes scan point matrix switches, a signal processor, and a controller, wherein the controller is located in the line unit.

50. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the monitor includes scan point matrix switches, a signal processor, and a controller, wherein the controller is located in the line unit.

51. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein the monitor includes scan point matrix switches, a signal processor, and a controller, wherein the controller is located in the line unit.

52. (Previously presented) A line unit as in claim 46, wherein the monitor means includes scan point matrix switches, a signal processor, and a controller, wherein the controller is located in the line unit.

53. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

~~requesting receiving~~, from a customer premises terminal via a local link to a line unit and telephone network switch in a switched telephone network, a request for a communication path to a destination;

controlling a scanning device to selectively connect a signal detector to the local link;

using the signal detector to monitor a signal that includes said request;

determining based on said signal detecting, via a monitor, that the requesting step that said request does not seek conversion in said line unit;

connecting said terminal through a portion of said line unit around a converter in said line unit to a wide band data switch connected to a data network; and

signaling a central processing unit (CPU) controlling said telephone network switch to effect an entry in a journal of said telephone network switch, and using said entry for billing for the communications path set up in response to said requesting step.

54. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

~~requesting receiving~~, from a customer premises terminal a local link to a line unit and telephone network switch in a switched telephone network, a request for a communication path to a destination;

controlling a scanning device to selectively connect a signal detector to the local link;

using the signal detector to monitor a signal that includes said request;

determining based on said signal detecting, via a monitor, that the requesting step that said request does not seek conversion in said line unit; and

connecting said terminal through a portion of said line unit around a converter in said line unit to a wide band data switch connected to a data network, wherein said connecting step through a portion of said line unit around a converter therein to a wide band switch is a virtual hard wired connection.

55. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 54, wherein said connection to said wide band network is through an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) edge device.

56. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a signal via a local link from customer premises in a telecommunications network connected by said local link to a program controlled switch in said telecommunications network; wherein the program controlled switch is configured for scanning each of a set of local links; scanning said local link with the program controlled switch to provide monitoring of said signal;

making a determination, via a monitor, regarding a pre-established characteristic of said signal; and

responsive to said determination, solid state switching said signal to a digital signal ~~processing processor~~ and a wide band network edge device, wherein said solid state switching comprises cross-point switching, wherein said cross point switching is performed in a line unit in said telecommunications network, wherein said cross-point switching directs said signal away from a two-way digital/analog converter in said line unit having predetermined narrowband digital bitrate capabilities.

57. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 56, wherein said wide band network edge device is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) edge device.

58. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 57, wherein said digital signal processing occurs in said edge device.

59. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a signal via a local link from customer premises in a telecommunications network connected by said local link to a program controlled switch in said telecommunications network; wherein the program controlled switch is configured to scan each of a set of local links;

scanning said local link to provide monitoring of said signal;

making a determination, via a monitor, regarding a pre-established characteristic of said signal; and

responsive to said determination, solid state switching said signal to a digital signal processing processor and a wide band network edge device, wherein said ~~digital signal processing is performed in a processor~~ is separate from said wide band edge device, wherein said ~~the~~ processor performing said digital signal processing is associated with a line unit through a portion of which said signal is conducted.

60. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein said processor performing said digital signal processing comprises a part of said line unit.

61. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein said digital signal processing is performed in an adaptive digital signal processor with a programmed controller providing coding and decoding functions adapted to a particular communication service requested by said signal and the physical level of signal protocol used over said local link from said customer premises.

62. (New) A line unit according to claim 48, wherein the monitor is configured to selectively monitor subsequent local links in a set of local links;